GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:687
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2009
DECLINING POPULATION OF SNOW LEOPARDS
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of snow leopards has been declining over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their current population;

(c) whether any project has been launched for their conservation;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount earmarked for the purpose;

(e) whether the local communities will be involved in the task of their conservation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b)Snow Leopard is a globally endangered species.It is estimated that there are about 400 -700 Snow Leopards in India.

(c) to (f)A detailed project for the conservation of Snow Leopard has been prepared recently by Government of India. There is no earmarked budget exclusively for this project. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', Central Government provides financial and technical assistance to State/ UT Governments for various activities aimed at the conservation of wildlife including Snow Leopard. Besides, under the component of `Recovery programmes for critically endangered species` of the said Scheme, Snow Leopard has been included as one of the species for support. Total outlay for the Scheme - 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' - for the current financial year i.e. 2008-09 is Rs.80 crores. Further, the involvement of local people is envisaged in planning, capacity building and strengthening institutions at village and landscape level for Snow Leopard conservation.